Ufford PUNCH

Issue 324 *January 2024*

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

Welcome to January. I have to admit - hang on, I know my rights copper, I don't have to admit anything. I was nowhere near that roof and I'm allergic to lead. Where's my lawyer?
Sorry, let's start again … I will admit that January has never been my favourite month. After all the jollity and anticipation of Christmas, it's a dark month of hunkering down. And as far as the Punch is concerned, this December has been a slow news month (but after the floods in November, that's a good thing).
Anyway, enough excuses. If you're looking for an occasion to celebrate, Burns Night on January 25th is probably your best bet. Karen and Jeremy recall celebrations of yore in far flung places on page 5 to get you in the mood. (STOP PRESS - the near flung White Lion just announced their own Burns Night celebrations - see their ad for details). Incidentally the best haggis I ever ate - in Glasgow - probably outshone any Christmas turkey. The secret is not to look at the recipe, which reads like a page torn out of a vulture's cook book. As reporter Helen says, the haggis is really a pretext for eating "buttery neeps and tatties and a really good whisky sauce".
We also have a wedding, the first episode of the Neighbourhood Plan, tales of agricultural unrest, Christmas leftovers and book reviews. And more.
Laurence Potter has been doing a great job with Nature Notes since Kevin Rogers departed, but he really could do with some help - putting together a column every single month can be surprisingly demanding. If anyone could help out by taking on the occasional column or contributing in any way, that would be greatly appreciated.

Kevin Young

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

Cover photograph by Jan King

Ufford PUNCH February 2024

Deadline for submissions: 12th January 2024

UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

It's that time of year again when the Ufford Players are busy rehearsing their forthcoming production.
This year they are performing a thriller entitled 'Murder at Cliff House' by Janet Smith, and you the audience are asked 'literally' to guess Who Dun It.
More to be revealed next month. Watch this space.
Tickets on sale in February at £12.50 including fish and chips and £7.00 if you prefer to bring your own meal.
Dates of performances 22nd & 23rd March 2024.

Burns Night around the world with Karen and Jeremy Eyres

Burns Night, celebrating the birth of Scotland's national poet on 25th January 1759, is not only celebrated on this island. Scots culture is deeply ingrained in many expat communities around the world and, as we have experienced, in many surprising places with many nationalities becoming involved in the dancing and rituals associated with it. But, depending on the climate of the country, we also remember Scottish dancing on St Andrew's night, 30th November, and Hogmanay too.

In Beijing and Warsaw, where we also danced the night away, there are still Scottish Societies hosting St. Andrews Balls and Burns Night suppers, but probably the most memorable was Kolkata (Calcutta) in India in the early 1980's. Historically there had been a long association between the city and Dundee based especially around the jute industry which was so important to the economy of both cities. Many Scots had lived and worked in Kolkata and their memory lives on in street names and cemeteries.

A highlight of their year would have been the annual Burns Night celebrations organised by the Caledonian Society. By the time we got to Kolkata there were only 2 ½ Scots there but the 'Chieftain', who had a special carved chair, was Jeremy's boss, from Edinburgh, and the event was held in a garden decorated with twinkly lights on a balmy Bengal evening. The haggis - and the piper too we recall - were flown in by British Airways. A suitable Scot inspired us with the "Address to a Haggis" and there was a wonderfully diverse mix of other guests, mainly Indian and German - all enthusiastic dancers. We'd all been trained over previous weeks by a British diplomat from the very Scottish county of Hampshire, who was caller on the night too in case we got lost. He was brilliant at it.

From Burns's Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a *grace*
As lang 's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your *pin* wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see Rustic-labour dight,
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!

If Burns's poem doesn't put you off haggis completely, and you can't find a butcher who makes his own, Helen Paxton suggests MacSween's haggis; the genuine article is available on the internet or you can get an unromantic plastic-wrapped version from most supermarkets including Waitrose and Tesco. A vegetarian option is also available.

UPC Ufford Parish Council News

Meeting Dates for 2024

Did you know, you are welcome to attend the meetings of Ufford Parish Council at any time. They take place on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.00pm. The venue changes as we want to support both halls, so here are the details for 2024:

16th January – Ufford Community Hall
20th February – Ufford Community Hall
19th March – Ufford Community Hall
16th April – St Mary's Church Hall
21st May – St Mary's Church Hall (AGM)
18th June – St Mary's Church Hall
16th July – St Mary's Church Hall
20th August (tbc) – St Mary's Church Hall
17th September – St Mary's Church Hall
15th October – Ufford Community Hall
19th November – Ufford Community Hall
17th December – Ufford Community Hall

Welcome to a new Councillor

At their November meeting, the Parish Council welcomed Tim Buxbaum to the team. Tim is a local architect who has lived in Ufford for many years; his experience in planning matters will be invaluable to the Council; We are grateful to Tim for coming forward to give his support as a Councillor.

Wild about Ufford – could you co-ordinate or help with this project?

Our District Councillor, Cllr. Sally Noble is planning to launch 'Wild About Wickham' in February 2024 as part of a biodiversity initiative across her Ward. The aim is to encourage individuals to engage with the climate change, nature and biodiversity crisis by doing whatever they can in their own area to provide a home for nature and to brighten up their village. This could be anything as small as a bee friendly flowerpot, to planting trees or making a pond. Campsea Ashe have already had great success with the Wild About Campsea group and we now hope to jump on this band wagon and have our own group.

Wild about Ufford would be our village's way of getting involved. Would you be interested in heading up to helping with this group? Do let us know.

Thank you to all our Bulb Planters

A massive "THANK YOU" to the 20+ residents who collected Daffodil and Narcissus bulbs in November, and planted them on verges, in hedges and in front gardens throughout the village. These will give a wonderful show next spring 😊

Here we see Keith and Alex Bennett planting in School Lane →

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The Ufford Neighbourhood Plan

Recognising the Character of Our Village

After about eighteen months of work, your NP Steering Group are moving towards a Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. This emerging Plan contains a suite of Policies, referred to in the November PUNCH. The important **Environment Policies** section aims to recognise, respect and protect our village character and our physical assets such as our ***Local Green Spaces***, ***Important Views*** and what are called ***Non-Designated Heritage Assets***. All of these make an important contribution to our village heritage.

We have identified a number of ***Local Green Spaces*** within the Parish which meet nationally-recognised criteria for protection from future development. Parklands Wood is but one example which meets the criteria of being an important community asset, accessible to all and with environmental significance. So it's crucial to register it so that it is preserved as an asset for us all. Others are perhaps less obvious such as the grassy triangles by the village sign and at the junction of East Lane and Loudham Lane. We have identified twenty such spaces within the parish.

Parklands Wood

Iconic view from the edge of the Conservation Area looking down Church Lane towards St Mary's Church

We've also considered what are the most ***Important Views*** in the village and assessed these. The views we've chosen are many of those mentioned by residents in the Household Survey as worthy of protection. Here's an example everyone in the village will recognise and which we'd want kept just as it is now. The Plan includes fifteen publicly accessible views within the parish.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets (or **NDHA**s for short) are another important feature of the village's history and character. Whilst we have many Listed Buildings, we have identified other less well-known but important assets - buildings, man-made features and the like - which merit recognition and celebration. Those recognised will be chosen for their quality and character, and their contribution to the heritage of the village.

An example is the unique Ufford-to-London milestone close to Hill Farm in the High Street. This dates from before the first Ordnance Survey Map in the 1880's and was on the coaching route from London to Great Yarmouth.

By identifying these assets in our Neighbourhood Plan, we can celebrate them and help to keep them protected as part of our village's rich history.

The Ufford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

WHITE LION PUB

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2024

Winter at the White Lion

Happy New Year to One and All!

First Quiz of the Year - Tuesday 9th January 7pm - Simple Minds

Kids Quiz - Tuesday 16th January 7pm

Open Mic Night - *Date to be decided*

Quiz Night - Tuesday 23rd January 7pm - On the Run

Burns Night at the White Lion - Thursday 25th January 7pm £28.50 pp

Join us to toast Robbie Burns with a traditional meal and a glass of malt

Cullen Skink, a creamy smoked haddock soup

Traditional haggis, neeps 'n' tatties with a delicate whiskey sauce

Cranachan combination of raspberries cream roasted oats and whiskey

Opening Times for January: Closed all day Monday

Tuesday - Saturday 12-2:30pm 6-10pm

Sunday - 12 noon-9pm

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Please check our website for details of our events: www.uffordwhitelion.co.uk

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Our Georgie Gets Wed

You may know Georgie Bingham from her work as a TV and radio sport presenter or as a golf commentator. For us on the Punch committee she's a much-loved (and missed) ex-editor of the newsletter. Georgie married Angus Coats on 24 November 2023 at the Shire Hall in Woodbridge. The couple celebrated their nuptials at the Ufford Crown with 30 family and friends and homemade banana cake courtesy of the bride's sister Rosie Curtis.

LEFT: BRIDE AND GROOM

ABOVE: LOVELY BANANA CAKE

RIGHT: LOVELY BANANA

Tales of Old Ufford

As readers of these odd little Ufford histories may remember, the lot of the agricultural worker in Victorian times was a hard one. Poor prices for grain kept wages low, and many small farmers and farm labourers found it hard to make ends meet. In the early 1870s, agricultural workers in Suffolk began to unionise in order to fight for fairer wages. However, local landowners banded together and agreed to "lock out" any labourer belonging to a union. Vast numbers of workers were "locked out" of their employment in this way in 1874, to the effect that the new Union virtually collapsed under the cost of many thousands of pounds in strike pay.

This is the background to a potentially violent altercation which took place in Ufford two years later, when three farm workers went on strike, having found that they were earning a shilling less per week than workers on other farms in the village. The farmer, having no one to milk his cows, engaged another villager to work for him, causing a huge argument and possibly, though this was hotly contested, a blow to be struck and a knife to be drawn. Whatever the circumstances, the three strikers came upon the lad moving the farmer's horses and remonstrated with him for breaking their strike. He refused to acquiesce, so the argument continued with much swearing and quarrelling to be heard through the lanes of Ufford. A case was brought against one of the union men who was found guilty.

Lest we see the farmer as the real villain of this piece, I should add that he probably could not afford to pay his workers properly. He also lost his farming livelihood that same year.

Helen Paxton

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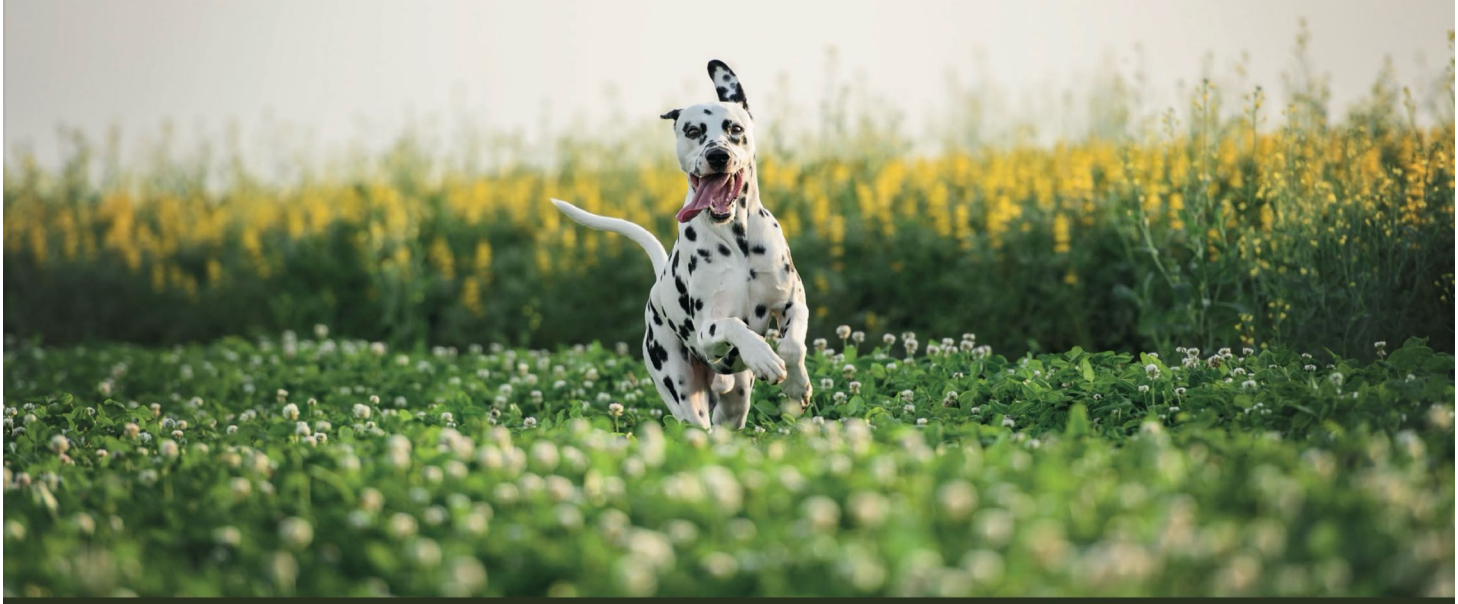

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Kit's Staggering Stag Photo

Okay, the stag isn't actually staggering - it is standing upright and looking quite dignified - but we will aways ditch the truth for a catchy title. Ufford resident Kit Thomas captured this wonderful picture of a majestic stag peeking out of the trees at the ancient Captain's Wood Nature Reserve, Sudbourne.

Kit, 20, head barman at the White Lion pub, used a newly purchased Panasonic Lumix G9 camera with a 300x magnification lens.

The rare opportunity to snap such a beautiful beast nearly passed Kit by as he was returning to his car on the 4th November.

He said: "It was when I was walking back to my car that I spotted what appeared to be a pair of antlers on the floor. When I looked closer I quickly realised it was a stag.

Eventually, I got as close as I could. I slowly peeked from the corner and began to take some pictures. The stag nearly immediately stood up (I captured this picture) and then ran."

If you have any interesting pictures of wildlife, or Suffolk, please send them to submissions@uffordpunch.org.uk

THE UFFORD CROWN

12th ANNIVERSARY

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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ongoing support during 2023

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

All the team at the Ufford Crown x

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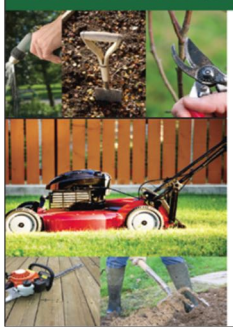

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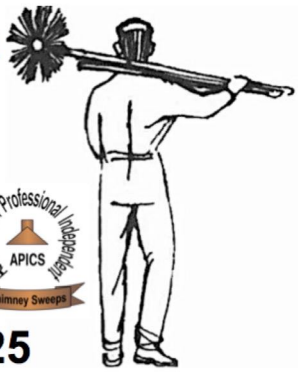

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CHRISTMAS ROUNDUP

Fayre's Fair

Blessed are the tea makers: Giles, Marguerite, Gillian, Sarah, Karen

The first harbingers of Christmas; the cheeky robin alighting on the holly bush, that terrible Wham song, and the Christmas Fayre in the Church Hall, which always slips in a couple of days too late to make the December edition. Organised by the PCC and held annually since the 1920s, the Fayre is primarily a traditional social event for the whole village. PCC members ran the raffle and the "guess the weight of the cake" competition and the ever-popular refreshments, as well as stalls selling Christmas decorations, cakes and preserves. Other stalls featured jewellery by Helen Knight, wicker and Christmas wreaths by Janet Slattery, and wood craft by Mike Bewley Pope. A welcome £500 was raised for church funds.

Your Christmas Greetings Keep on Giving

Punch treasurer Jake Davies and advertising manager Sue Wright present a giant cheque for £250, the proceeds raised from your greeting card messages in December's Punch, to the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH). They are now searching for a cashpoint machine large enough to deposit it.

Gardening Club AGM and Dinner and UAHG Christmas Lunch

While Gardening Club members were too busy celebrating to take a picture of their dinner, UAHG members at their Hintlesham Hall lunch forgot to submit any words. So here are the two unrelated events combined. At least UAHG members who also garden are properly .. erm .. catered for

On Wednesday, 22nd November, forty-two members of the Ufford Gardening Club and Committee assembled for our Annual General Meeting. As usual, the business aspect of the meeting was kept appropriately short, with little comment from the floor. Once again Vernon Blackmore's team provided us with a delicious and inexpensive dinner and Club funds provided table wine. The decibel level in the hall rose dramatically as the evening progressed - always a sign of success!

UAHG AT HINTLESHAM HALL

Club Chair, Rilla Forge, outlined the many activities which had kept everyone busy during the year. These included six evening monthly meetings with speakers sharing their knowledge of subjects as varied as rose growing and willow weaving. Rilla also reported on a successful Plant and Seed Sale, a visit to the Place for Plants and the popular Members' Open Gardens. Rilla went on to thank all of those involved in making our annual Village Summer Show another successful event - the showpiece of the Ufford Gardening Club calendar.

Jill Apperley had organised the raffle with a variety of good prizes and Jinny Earl had created the lovely table flowers. These were auctioned off at the end of the evening. New committee member Brad Woodgate took care of arranging the wine for the evening, all of which contributed to a very successful event. **Sheila Creswick**

The New Year's Treasure Hunt Explained

Editor's Note: if you're lucky enough to receive this edition of the Punch before January 1st, this article from Mike Jones may inspire you to crawl out of bed and take part. If not, maybe reading about it may serve to get you out of bed next year.

Following our surprising victory at last year's treasure hunt I've been asked to write a little about what this tour of the village entails. This years hunt will be our third although sadly we won't be taking part as we have the joy (pressure) of setting the hunt being last years winners.

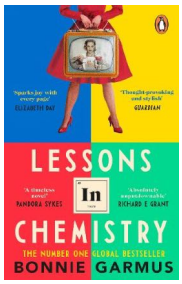
In short the hunt is roughly a 90 - 120 minute stroll around the village to blow away the New Year's cobwebs - along a pre planned route, of the quiz masters creation, there are a set of questions a mix of brain teasers, fact finding and a picture round (my level of ability on a new years morning). As newbies to the village it is a wonderful way to explore our new community, following the instructions of the hunt to guide us in and out of various nooks, streets, pathways and obviously tombstones. Highlights of last year's hunt for me aside from the adulation and two bottles of shiraz for winning, were counting the correct amount of 5 bar gates (eight) and the well earned veggie sausage and mash post walk at the White Lion - yum!

Ufford's Books Of The Year 2023

The Ufford Book Club and "Between the Covers" Book Club recommend their three favourite titles from the books they read during 2023

Ufford Book Club

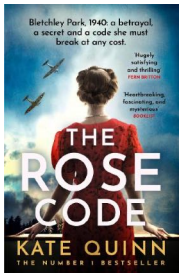
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus



Chemist Elizabeth Zott, our heroine, is a scientist in 1960s America, a single mother and reluctant star of a cookery show. Her academic career is in the doldrums, the reasons why slowly revealed - misogyny is rife, her work is stolen and her reputation attacked.

There is a brief happy marriage to her soulmate Calvin. She is fired from her job forcing her to take the TV job which she then uses to inspire housewives to change their lot. This is a richly humorous read about a talented woman to whom dreadful things happen but Elizabeth refuses to be anything but herself against all the odds. A fascinating and compelling first novel.

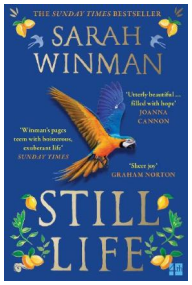
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn



Set in 1940s England when three very different women answer the call to mysterious country estate Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain break German military codes. Their stories jump out of the pages; debutante Osla, the girl who has everything, self-made Mab, product of East-End London poverty, and local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles form an unlikely friendship but the impossible pressure of secrecy tears the three apart.

The royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip of Greece in 1947 thrills post-war Britain and and a mysterious encrypted letter reunites the trio to solve the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum. A real page turner this, don't miss it.

Still Life by Sarah Winman



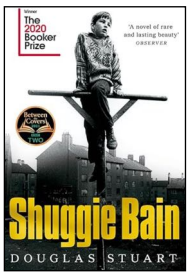
This fascinating book opens in Tuscany, 1944, where young English soldier, Ulysses Temper is fighting. His chance encounter with Evelyn Skinner, a middle-aged art historian, sets off events that shape the whole of the young man's life. We follow him through post war London with a cast of wonderful characters and inevitably back to Tuscany.

The book is a sweeping examination of "family" in all its forms, recounted gently, hopefully and comically.

Lyn Taylor

Between the Covers

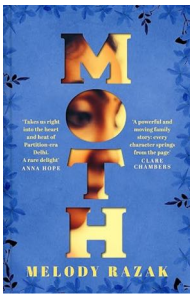
Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart



What a masterpiece! Douglas Stuart uses dialect to convey a real sense of character and place. A sad story with themes of deprivation, alcoholism, poverty, loneliness, filial love and sex. The men described in the book are mean, selfish and masochistic. The women aren't much better, often manipulative and cunning. Agnes, the mother of Shuggie, 'buys' her friendship through sharing her alcohol with other women and by having sex with men.

She is a selfish and uncaring mother; because she is addicted to alcohol she puts her own needs before her children's. A haunting tale dealing with abuse and addiction and how it affects children in these families having to grow up in such circumstances.

Moth by Melody Razak

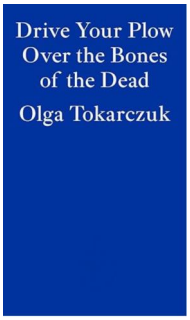


An unusual story set in India in 1947 about the war between the Muslims and Hindus. The persecution of anyone who is different so as the favoured can rule undisputed still prevails today.

The independence from British rule brings turmoil and things seem to unravel quickly when Partition happens overnight. The themes deal with religion, incest, honour killings, man's inhumanity to women.

A story of the caste system and the culture of the time is convincingly evoked with remnants of Urdu poetry included to give the story authenticity. For example: *Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark".* Beautiful poetry and a symbol of hope – one of the main themes of the book.

Drive your plow over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczuk



A lovely tale told in the first person from the point of view of Janina, a lady in her 60's who has become a recluse and who prefers the company of animals to people. She is a troubled individual who is an outsider. Themes cover injustice against marginalized individuals, the hypocrisy of traditional religion, belief in predestination and animal rights.

It is also a thriller; when people in a local hunting club are found murdered, Janina becomes involved in the investigation. An unusual book, part thriller, part philosophy with the poetry of William Blake added to underscore meaning. The book caused a political uproar in the author's native Poland at the time of writing.

Sandy Greenard.

EPI SPORGERSI'S NEW YEAR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobster Claw (mystery)

Reading The Beano under the Covers (a childhood memoir)

Sticky Pages (horror)

The Sitting Duck (thriller)

The Cryogenic Chiropractor (medicine)

Nature Notes by Laurence Potter

potter437@btinternet.com

Garden bird feeding is so important during the winter months, this being the toughest time with plummeting temperatures and shorter daylight hours for feeding. Suitable foods are fat balls, coconut, mealworms and a huge variety of seeds. I find sunflower hearts overall the best. They can be put out all year, and although not the cheapest, they are the most beneficial to all species including finches, tits, doves, sparrows and many others. As with most purchases it is most cost efficient to buy a sack and split it with friends. Food left under feeders will attract mice in the evening perhaps providing an owl with a much needed meal.

It's very important to clean your feeders on a regular basis, ideally once a fortnight as during these wetter months food can easily become mouldy. Decomposing food will build up in feeders making birds vulnerable to diseases.

Birds need a clean regular source of water to bathe and drink to keep feathers and themselves in good condition; bird baths are great for this. Once birds know it is always there it will be as big an attraction as food, especially when other water sources are frozen.

We will all get some pleasure from watching birds visiting feeders, washing and drinking from your supplies put out, what a fantastic way of sparking an interest in Nature, especially for the younger generation, who will hopefully continue doing this in their own gardens in the future.

Apps are available nowadays for use on tablets/phones which play calls/songs to increase your knowledge. MERLIN BIRD APP is a free app I'd recommend which will help anyone to identify birds on a walk even without seeing the bird! For a visual and sound ID I recommend the Collins Bird Guide either as a book or an app on the phone. It's not free but worth the money.

NUTHATCH PHOTO BY JOHN RICHARDSON

Nature Knowledge

Warning

Chocolate can kill dogs! It's toxic as it contains Theobromine, dogs are not capable of breaking it down.

Revealing the lost hamlet of Sogenhoe

"The population in the Mesolithic would have been very sparse, and yet they were wandering across that particular field; there was a village there in the Bronze Age; and then someone chose to put a chapel there" Lizzie de Hahn

Last year, the PUNCH featured an article about the geophysical survey at the Sogenhoe Chapel and the surrounding fields. Tantalisingly an initial field walk revealed a possible Mesolithic knife blade suggesting that there had been a human presence in these fields up to 5000 years ago.

So, on a very wet October morning 20 volunteers - 13 from Ufford - led by Suffolk Archaeological Field Group (SAFG) member, Nicky Moxey, assembled at the Community Hall to do an extensive field walk. After a briefing and with improved weather later in the morning, we walked in pairs each covering 30 metre square blocks to search for items of interest. Each pair collected their finds in bags but many of the flint and pottery finds were coated in clay mud so were difficult to identify.

Flint finds from the field walk

Tig Thomas and Lizzie de Hahn discuss their finds with Nicky Moxey

Nicky took away over 40 bags of finds and spent time washing and cataloguing these. Whilst there were pieces of mediaeval pottery and quite a lot of oyster shell fragments found, the most interesting finds were the range of flint tools and other debitage (debris from flint knapping).

The most interesting finds after cleaning and cataloguing

Perhaps most significant was a scattering of flint finds running in a band through the middle of the site, parallel to the A12 slip road, with a cluster of burnt flint towards the NW of the site. Five large, crude scrapers were found, their crudity suggesting a Bronze Age date. A flint knife blade tip was also found potentially from Neolithic times. Two small, fine blades found are possibly Mesolithic, potentially taking the site's occupation all the way back to 9,000 BCE.

So some exciting archaeological finds and worthwhile day in spite of us all getting rather wet!

David Findley

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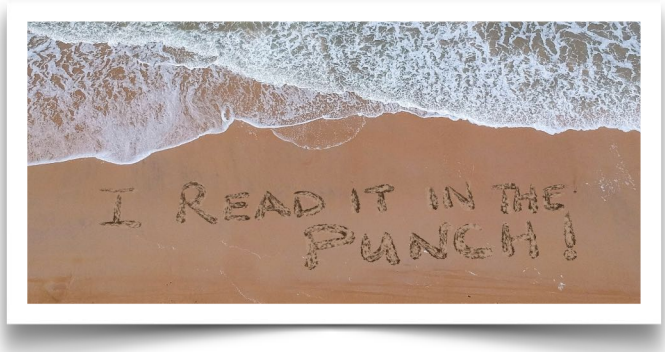
Gemma's Medals

Champion swimmer Gemma Cannon brings home gold to Goldsmiths

The Ufford Punch asked me to write about my busy swimming year, which was filled with pool and open water events from racing 50m to completing the whole 11 miles of Windermere end to end - but the highlight was my recent trip to the 2023 Masters National Championships in Sheffield. The Masters are open to club swimmers aged over 18; I can swim all strokes and had qualified for most events in my age group, but my specialty is the longer distance. So having entered the 50m, 100m, 800m and 1500m front crawl and the 200m and 400m medley, I made my way up to Sheffield in the final week of October for three days of racing.

You enter these events hoping to get a personal best - just to prove that all the training (including 2 hours every Friday night spent in the pool rather than the pub!) and effort has been worth it. Anything else is a bonus. Imagine my delight at achieving a personal best and winning silver in my age group in my first event (the 1500 freestyle). The rest of the weekend flew by, full of pleasing swims and a really lovely time catching up with swimming friends from all over the country. My final event was the 800 freestyle where I was starting in third position, meaning if we all swam our entry times exactly I'd come away with a bronze medal. Heat 10 appeared far too quickly, hands were shaking, and the "normal" anxiety before a race was setting in (Is my hat on securely? Will my goggles fog up? Have I drunk enough water? Is that a twinge in my back?) In the end I finished about half a second quicker than my entry time - another personal best! And, against all my expectations, I won the gold medal.

The smile in the photo says it all, but if anyone is wondering where this leads to next…. I was back at work two days later as if nothing had happened!! It does mean I've automatically qualified for the same competition in 2024, and we'll see if it's possible to defend the title.



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A Fond Farewell to our Ufford Friends

We have lived at The Gramps, Ufford Place, known by friends as 'The Grumps' for 25 years. We have spent 25 happy years here taking part in lots of the village activities. But we are now finding we have to do the dreaded 'downsizing' due to old age and creaking bodies. However we are only going as far as Wickham Market to join the other aged Ufford exiles. We will still, hopefully, be taking part in the village social activities.

The new owners of The Grumps, Melania and Nigel , will be moving in towards the end of January and we hope they will receive the usual warm welcome,

Just a cheerio to all our friends in the village.

Dot and Chris Norman

Milton Haslam 1928 -2023

Milton was born in Bradford. As a young man he joined the RAF and was posted to Felixstowe. When using the Post Office he met a young lady named Celia who worked there, and they fell in love and married.

He then joined the Police Force and they moved to Lowestoft; postings followed to various areas, including Halesworth, Framlingham and Stowmarket, during which time they had 2 children, Paul and Mark.

In 1962 Dad was posted as village Bobby to Benhall, where his beat included the village of Sternfield where Lord and Lady Penn lived and were often visited by members of the Royal Family. The highlight of his career was when the Queen visited on 2 occasions, once in the Royal Rolls Royce, at which time he did the traffic control, and again in the Royal helicopter. He was particularly proud of the photograph of him standing next to the helicopter.

In 1972 Mum and Dad moved to Wickham Market. Dad retired from the police force and went to work in Local Government before doing 2 nights a week as a night porter at the Seckford Hall Hotel. He used to say the food was fantastic.

After his retirement in the 1990s they downsized properties and moved to Ufford, which they enjoyed very much.

Dad liked to go fishing. He loved classical music and played both the organ and banjo. He and Celia had several dogs; an Irish Setter which was a real handful, Labrador, Border Collie, 2 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and in latter years a Jack Russell named Lucy. He and Lucy were well known in the Village. One day in some very snowy weather Lucy got out and was picked up by the Bin Men, who took her for a trip around the villages before bringing her home that evening.

After Mum's passing in 2007, Dad enjoyed his yearly holidays with my wife Carol and myself, although at the end of the week he was always pleased to be going home to see his little dog.

At 92 Dad started to suffer with dementia and mobility became challenging, although with the care given by my wife Carol he was able to remain at home. After a broken hip following a fall other issues developed and he passed away peacefully in hospital on November 15th, aged 95.

Mark Haslam

Ufford Book Exchange - the Inside Story

After the church font, the red telephone box is probably the second most distinctive feature in Ufford. It is now re-purposed as a book exchange. Punch recently came upon an elderly villager taking measurements in the box and stopped to ask some questions

Punch: Will you be long in there? I need a new Michael Connelly.

Villager: As long as it takes. I am measuring the shelves for some essential restoration work. They are getting wobbly.

Punch: Is that an easy job?

Villager: No it's highly technical work, requiring measurement that's accurate to within centimetres, and the fashioning of new buttresses.

Punch: Buttresses?

Villager: Pieces of wood, narrow and rectangular in profile.

Punch: You mean sticks?

Villager: That is the layperson's term, yes

Punch: Our younger readers will probably ask - what was a telephone box used for?

Villager: Your younger readers should be out kicking a football or watching TikTok. It allowed people to make calls while outside the house.

Punch: So an early kind of mobile phone?

Villager: Yes, only much bigger. It weighed around 750kg and required a team of fifteen men to carry it, so it usually remained in one place. Thanks to modern technology and the use of titanium instead of cast iron the modern iPhone is 4,000 times lighter.

Punch: Fascinating. And now it's a book exchange.

Villager: Yes, you bring a book and take a book. Or a jigsaw.

Punch: I don't see any jigsaws ...

Villager: Demand exceeds supply. And people borrow jigsaws *and don't bring them back*. So if any of your readers have any jigsaws, bring them along!

Punch: Any other interesting facts?

Villager: Yes, thanks to the example set by our telephone box there are now similar tiny libraries around the world *[see below]*. But ours was the very first. Also, our box featured in two classic movies - the crime thrillers "Dial 03678 985488 for Murder" and its sequel "Sorry Wrong Number"

Punch: Amazing. Is that really true?

Villager: No. Now take this Dan Brown and ****** off.

INTERVIEW BY KEVIN YOUNG

Book exchanges around the World: Above: Ufford UK, Amboise (2 pictures) and Verrieres, France. Below: Somewhere in France, Brooklyn USA (2 pictures). Photos by Kevin Young and Jan King

January's gardening notes from local horticulturist Nikk Slowey FdSc Hort. who along with her husband Christian are Honeysuckle Horticulture

"'Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream". *Josephine Nuese*

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants from your favourite suppliers. Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Jobs for the ornamental garden

- Prune your wisteria by cutting back whippy summer growth, leaving only 2 or 3 buds
- If your honeysuckle is very overgrown, now is the best time to prune and cut back hard to encourage healthy, new growth this spring.
- Now is a great time to sow sweet peas for early flowers and long stems.
- Cut back ornamental grasses. Clip back the old foliage from before new growth begins - cut back to within a few centimeters of the ground.
- Take root cuttings of perennials such as oriental poppies, echinacea, delphinium and phlox.
- Keep on top of deadheading violas and pansies for prolonged flowering.
- Cut back the old foliage of ornamental grasses to allow the fresh, spring growth through.
- Cut back the old top growth of perennials and add to the compost heap.
- Remove the leaves from Hellebores so that the flowers are on full view.

Jobs for the kitchen garden

- Prune apple and pear trees.
- Prune your currant plants and gooseberries now to maintain a productive framework of healthy branches.
- Begin to force rhubarb using a rhubarb forcer or upturned trug.
- Sow broad beans, radishes, onions, leeks, hardy peas, swiss chard, spinach and carrots under cover.
- Chervil, parsley, chives, fennel and coriander can be sown and grown on under cover.
- Cut down autumn fruiting raspberry canes to soil level.
- Prepare the ground for early peas. Place a cloche over the soil this month, to warm up the ground a few weeks before sowing.
- Bring potted strawberries under cover for an early crop.
- Harvest leeks, celery, chard, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts, kale and parsnips.
- Towards the end of the month begin to chit early seed potatoes.

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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

EVENTS

1st January	White Lion Treasure Hunt 10am	
8th and 22nd January	Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am	UCH
9th , 23rd January	White Lion pub quiz 7pm (first question 8 pm)	
10th January	Ufford Coffee Morning 10-12am	UCH
11th, 18th, 25th January	Happy Babies 9:30-10:30am, 10:45-11:45am	UCH
16th January	Ufford Parish Council meeting 7pm	UCH
16th January	White Lion kid's quiz 7pm	
24th January	Gardening Club meeting 7:30pm	UCH
25th January	Burns Night at the White Lion	

REGULAR CLASSES AND CLUBS

Mondays 2.15pm	Tai Chi Classes	UCH
Tuesdays 2.00pm	Carpet Bowls	UCH

BRIDGE CLUBS

Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Friendly Bridge Club
Wed 3rd, 17th & 31st January 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Lane

UCH Ufford Community Hall, The Avenue

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court)
2pm Tuesdays, turn up and play

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
Bookings.uch@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Friends of Ufford Woods
Mike Hawthorne 01394 420241

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

Helping Ufford Group (HUG)
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

Parish Council and website
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford.suffolk.cloud

Parish Church Committee
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Friendly Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01473 333167

Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

Ufford PUNCH
Nicky Scott 01394 460186
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Church Wardens of Ufford:
Mrs Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455
Mr David Perfect T: 01394 460363

Many Christians look enviously at the early days of the church. They see an organisation enjoying complete harmony, praising God together, sharing everything, and devoting themselves tirelessly to good works. However, those who chronicled those times were honest enough to relate how such a state of affairs did not last long and division and dissension arose. As we all know only too well, those divisions deepened leading to violence, war and an organisation that was as far away from those early halcyon days as it was possible to be. How on earth could the Christian church descend to such a state and what efforts is it trying to make to restore its harmony?

We need to remember at the outset that diversity is quite different from division. My own feeling is that if we were all the same, looked the same, thought the same, the world would be very boring. It is actually through diversity that our own experiences in life are enhanced. Other organisations such as political parties, though sharing the same aspirations, can disagree deeply on how those aspirations can be achieved. For the church, we believe that God is bigger than all of us and so it is inevitable that we should experience him in different ways. All parts of the Christian church are coming to realise that in our diversity, we learn more about God, rather than by imposing one set of values on everyone.

However, that is not to say that more cannot be done. Prayer may not be for everyone but it is an important part of the church's life. Consequently, every year between the 18th to 25th June, the Christian church devotes a week of prayer for Christian Unity. We do not want all to be the same because that would destroy the diversity we cherish. However, what we do seek is that we should all come together to embrace the love of the God whom we believe created us all in our diversity. So, if you feel that such an aspiration is important for you, take time in that week to join in with those prayers.

Ian Pells

At this time when many people are suffering from rising food prices and increasing costs the "little pantry" and food banks are needed more than ever. Their supplies and donations have decreased and so need our help. When you are shopping if you feel able to buy a little extra the collection box is once again in church for your donations.

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone welcome at Services

January

Sun 7th The Baptism of Christ Epiphany 1
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 14th Epiphany 2
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 Eucharist at Melton

Sun 21st Epiphany 3
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 28th Epiphany 4
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Please check the church website for updates and the church calendar

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR ON THE WEB SITE
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Banks - donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry' at St Andrew's Church, Melton and Collection Box at Ufford Church. Thank you.

Jenny Searle

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/ https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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